

Balanced Budget Agreement, which are compounded each year due to Medicare's rate setting methodology.

Second, since there is no uniform measurement of uncompensated care, this legislation provides a 2 percent adjustment to the Medicare inpatient rates of high-need hospitals to reflect the added costs incurred by providing large amounts of uncompensated care. The rate supplement is authorized for three years, with the expectation that new federal and state insurance initiatives will gradually reduce the number of uninsured patients.

The High Need Hospital Medicare Relief Act of 2000 targets relief to safety net hospitals across the Country from Tennessee to California and ensures that vulnerable patients have continued access to essential health care services.

THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2000

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the National and Community Service Amendments Act of 2000 which I have introduced today with my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. ANDREWS.

As a strong fiscal conservative, I believe National Service is one of the wisest and least costly investments our government can make. Every \$1 spent on AmeriCorps generates \$1.66 in benefits to the community; every full-time AmeriCorps member generates an average of 12 additional volunteers.

AmeriCorps is one of the most successful experiments in state and local control the federal government has ever embarked upon: two-thirds of AmeriCorps funding goes directly to Governor-appointed state commissions which then make grants to local non-profits.

Through service, Americans of all ages gain a sense of commitment to their community and their country which will prove valuable for their entire lives.

Since 1994 more than 150,000 Americans have served as AmeriCorps members in all 50 states. They have taught, tutored, or mentored more than 2.5 million students; recruited, supervised, or trained more than 1.6 million volunteers; built or rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes; provided living assistance to more than 208,000 senior citizens; and planted more than 52 million trees.

National Service is a powerful force in every state in the Union. This year, my state alone has nearly 14,000 National Service members solving problems and helping people. Of that total, AmeriCorps is providing 790 people the opportunity to dedicate a year to community service. Learn and Serve America creates the opportunity for 6,500 students from kindergarten through college to dedicate their time, and the National Senior Service Corps brings together 6,300 seniors to contribute their time as Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions or Retired and Senior Volunteers.

The National and Community Service Amendments Act of 2000 reauthorizes the Corporation for National Service and the programs it administers: the National Senior Serv-

ice Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America.

This bill has been drafted in close consultation with more than 200 community service groups. It is a simple extension of the existing program, with a few key improvements.

This bill codifies the cost-cutting Grassley agreement reached in 1996 under which the Corporation lowered its average cost per AmeriCorps member to \$15,000 for Fiscal Year 1999, including a \$4,725 education award to finance college or repay student loans, and a mere \$7,421 for a living allowance.

The reauthorization expands the cost-cutting "Education Award Only" model, through which the Corporation provides only the education award, and the sponsoring organization provides all other support.

It also codifies the existing prohibition on AmeriCorps grants to federal agencies and expands the type of student loans that may be repaid with the education award.

This bill broadens the scope of the National Senior Service Corps by lowering the minimum age from 60 to 55 so more volunteers may participate, and by increasing the definition of "low income" from 125 to 150 percent of the poverty line so more can be served by Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions.

These improvements will make National Service better than it has ever been.

AmeriCorps members are not only helping meet the immediate needs in our communities, they are also teaching, through their example, the importance of serving and helping others. As a former Peace Corps volunteer, I know the significance of this long-lasting lesson.

Our youth want so desperately to take hold of their destiny and work to ensure a brighter and more prosperous future. There is so much they can do—all they need is the opportunity.

HONORING THE FRIEDENS CHURCH OF CHRIST IN IRVINGTON, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Friedens Church of Christ in Irvington, Illinois. They recently celebrated their 110th anniversary.

The anniversary was marked with a celebration and the display of the Bible which was donated to the congregation in 1919 by Kaiser Wilhelm II, former emperor of Germany. The Bible, which was autographed by the Kaiser, is the oldest in the area, and was given to their pastor, Rev. Rauch, who had previously served as pastor of the Evangelical Church in Berlin that was attended by Wilhelm II.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage them and thank them for their many years of ministry. I wish the church continued growth and another 110 years of service.

HONORING BOBBY MITCHELL'S TEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honor to rise today to pay tribute to Bobby Mitchell's ten years of service to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Before contributing to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Bobby starred for the Cleveland Browns and Washington Redskins of the National Football League (NFL) from 1958–1968. His prolific football career earned him election to the Hall of Fame in 1983. Today, Bobby Mitchell serves as the Assistant General Manager for the Washington Redskins. In addition to his managerial duties, Bobby has made defeating leukemia a goal of his since his pro-football days.

Bobby's motivation to beat leukemia, is linked to the death of a friend, Ernie Davis, a leukemia victim. Ironically, former Heisman trophy winner, Davis, was traded from the Washington Redskins to the Cleveland Browns in 1961 for Bobby Mitchell. To prevent leukemia from seizing other gifted citizens lives, Bobby joined forces with David Timko, Executive Director of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, in 1990. Their mission was to raise money for leukemia research to help find a cure for this dreadful disease. As a solution, Bobby proposed hosting a golf and tennis tournament featuring members of the football and basketball Hall of Fame. Through Bobby's dedication, the event has become the nation's largest annual gathering of Hall of Famers.

Since the Hall of Fame Golf & Tennis Classic's inception a decade ago, the tournament has drawn such legendary names as Joe Namath, Bill Russell, and Oscar Robertson. Their presence has assisted in raising over \$1.5 million for leukemia research. Thanks to these philanthropic contributions, we can now generate public awareness, provide support programs for patients and their families, and educate health professionals about the latest advances in leukemia diagnosis and treatment. I am confident that Bobby and his fellow Hall of Famers have brought us one step closer to a cure.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the 10th anniversary of the Bobby Mitchell Chrysler Plymouth Hall of Fame Golf & Tennis Classic will take place on the weekend of July 8th and 9th at the Lansdowne Resort in Lansdowne, Virginia. Players and fans alike will join in remembering Tom Landry, legendary coach of the Dallas Cowboys and winner of two super bowls, himself a leukemia victim. Seeing a celebrated citizen in Tom Landry pass away, highlights the need for more Bobby Mitchell's who are willing to help find a cure for leukemia.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to thank Bobby Mitchell for his ten years of service to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In hosting the Hall of Fame Golf & Tennis Classic for the last ten years, Bobby has led a revolution of football and basketball Hall of Famers against the dreadful disease of leukemia. With his leadership and selfless dedication to the